

**12809 NE 32nd Street
Bellevue, WA 98005**

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I want to contact you to ask for your support of the proposed settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case. Though the legal action had some merits, the government expense of three years in court over this matter has surpassed its benefit, so it's time to bring it all to an end.

With technology changing so rapidly, no one can possibly hold a monopoly on the software industry, so it's not worth splitting it apart. Microsoft has used some very aggressive tactics against its rivals, yet the bottom line is that there is a choice out there and the consumer isn't clamoring for it. However, despite the vindictive nature of the proceedings, Microsoft has come to an agreement after the involvement of a court-appointed mediator, which led to a variety of gestures that outdo even the Justice Department's original complaints.

It's time to accept this deal and allow for this settlement to take root. These proposed terms should allow for a more wide-open market and for Microsoft's competitors to have their chance, without the disruption of breaking up a company that has revolutionized the PC industry. I appreciate your attention to my feedback.

Sincerely,


Max Decker